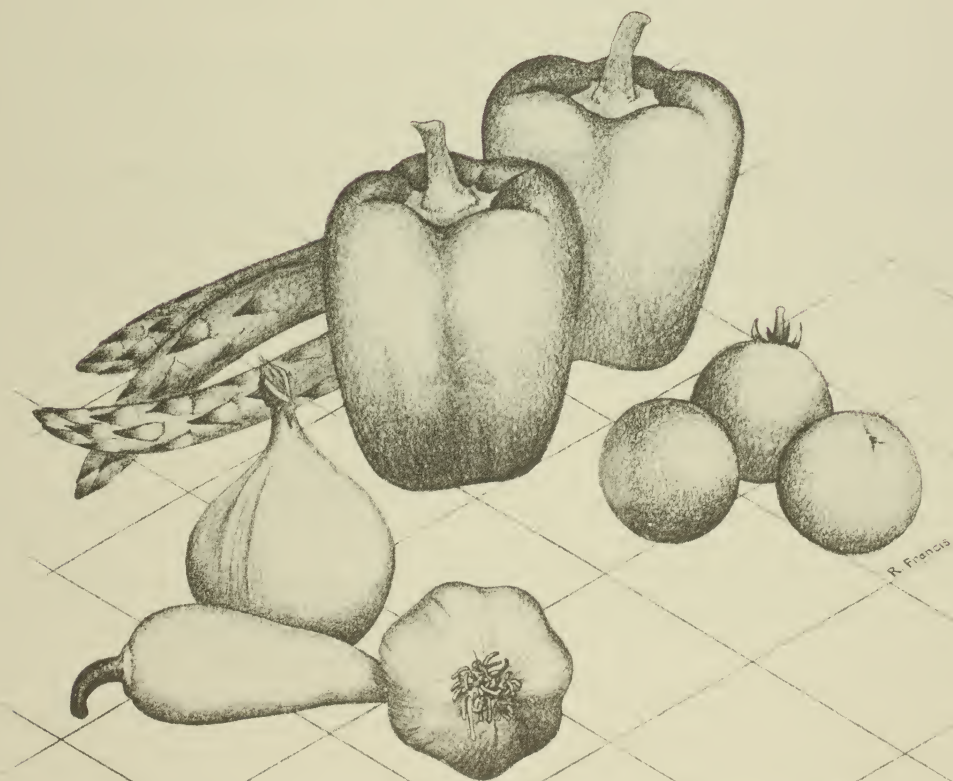


California GARDEN

MAY-JUNE 2001

Volume 92 No. 3

\$2.00



HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR

May 3-6 Thurs.-Fri.-Sat.-Sun.

ART ALIVE at S.D. Museum of Art—Floral designers interpret works on display from the permanent collection. Thurs. 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Fri. 10:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m., Sat. & Sun. 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. FEE

May 4-5 Fri.-Sat.

RANCHO SANTA ANA BOTANIC GARDEN, Claremont, presents the 5th Symposium on California's Horticulturally Significant Plants "Out of the Wild and into the Garden." Registration: \$295. Call 909/626-1917 or visit www.rsabg.org.

May 4-6 Fri.-Sun.

CHIRP FOR GARDEN WILDLIFE, INC. 4th Annual "Sage & Songbirds Festival and Garden Tours." 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. all three days, seven self-guided tours of beautiful habitat gardens. Cost \$10. Festival includes garden vendors, live bird exhibits, educational seminars, and more. Sat.-Sun. 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Special highlight of 3,000 live butterflies in 1,000 sq. ft. walk-in enclosure. Sat. evening 6:00-8:00 p.m., "Twilite Waterfront Jazz Concert and Fiesta Dinner." Cost \$25 per person, \$45 per couple. For information, call 619/445-7675.

May 5 Sat.

★SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY open from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Mon.-Fri., also the first and third Saturdays. Members of SDFA can check out books. (Membership \$10 a year, includes magazine.) Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 105. 619/232-5762.

May 5-6 Sat.-Sun.

BUDS 'n BLOOMS FLORAL FIESTA IN BALBOA PARK The 4th Annual month-long celebration of Balboa Park's botanical bounty kicks off with the **Garden Showcase** tour. Free, self-guided tour with docents at each location. Flyers are available at the Visitors Center.

May 5-6 Sat.-Sun.

CARLSBAD AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY Annual Show and Sale "Oceans of Violets." Sat. 12:00-6:00 p.m.; Sun. 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Plaza Camino Real Mall, 2525 El Camino Real, Carlsbad. Contact Patty 310/372-1771. Free.

May 5-6 Sat.-Sun.

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS will host Gourd and Basket workshops including Gourd Fountain, Hopi Tray Basket, Dream Catcher Gourd, and Free-Form Antler Basket. Both days 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Cost varies per workshop. Pre-registration required. 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. 760/436-3036.

May 5-6 Sat.-Sun.

VISTA GARDEN CLUB 67th Annual Flower Show and Plant Sale. "Look for Beauty Everywhere." Sat. 1:30-5:00 p.m.; Sun. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Brengle Terrace Park Senior Center, 1400 Vale Terrace, Vista. Free. Information: 760/941-7889.

May 7 Mon.

PALOMAR DISTRICT DESIGN FORUM 2000-2001 Carlsbad Women's Club. 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad. 12:30-3:00 p.m. \$8 door. 760/749-9608.

May 9 Wed.

BONITA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB presents "Bonita in Bloom," 8th Annual Garden Tour and Flower Show. Six unique gardens and in-home flower show, plus horticulture and exhibits at the Bonita Museum. 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Garden tour and show \$15.00, picnic lunch \$5.00. For tickets call Marge at 619/479-7177.

May 12 Sat.

BUDS 'n BLOOMS Kids' Day on the Prado at Balboa Park. Hands-on floral-themed activities for kids. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Free.

May 12 Sat.

FLOWER ARRANGERS GUILD OF SAN DIEGO Show "SPRING FLING." 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 104. Free.

May 12 Sat.

LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB Annual Spring Plant Market. 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. in the Washington Mutual Bank Patio, 7777 Girard Ave., La Jolla. 858/456-0693.

May 12 Sat.

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS is hosting a "HIGH TEA" including music, childrens crafts, food, and a personalized tour of the gardens.

(continued on page 68)



Published by
San Diego Floral Association
for 91 Years

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Linda Berger

NOW IS THE TIME EDITOR

Marianne D. Truby

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COVER Illustration by Robert Francis

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BALBOA PARK VISITORS CENTER, HOUSE OF HOSPITALITY, 1549 El Prado, San Diego CA 92101
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FLOWER SHOWS: Show chairman contact *California Garden*, 619/232-5762 if you want the magazine sold at your show.

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**"HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR", CONTINUED
FROM PAGE 66**

10:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Reservations,
call 760/436-9236. \$18.

May 12 Sat.

TEMECULA VALLEY ROSE SOCIETY 7th Annual Rose and Art Show. 8:00-10:00 a.m. for the physically challenged and 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. general public. Temecula Community Recreation Center, 30875 Rancho Vista Rd. Free.

May 12-13 Sat.-Sun.

THE HUNTINGTON 4th Annual Orchid Festival. Exhibits, sales, workshops, educational displays. Afternoon tea (reservations 626/683-8131). 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino. General admission. 626/405-2100.

May 13 Sun.

MOTHER'S DAY ARTIST STUDIOS AND GARDENS TOUR hosted by Quail Botanical Gardens. Visit up to 10 studios, homes, and gardens. 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. \$15. Tickets available at Quail Gardens, 760/436-9236,

May 13 Sun.

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY Annual Mother's Day Show. 12:00-4:00 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

May 14 Mon.

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY presents "The Ace of Shovels" with Roger Swain of PBS-TV's "The Victory Garden." 7:30 p.m. at the Satellite Wagering Facility of the Del Mar Fairgrounds on Jimmy Durante Blvd., \$10 members and \$15 non-members. Contact Don Walker 760/630-7307.

May 15 Tues.

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM presents "Insect Gardening: Butterflies and Friends." 7:00-9:00 p.m. Learn how to attract butterflies and other insects to your yard. \$12 for Museum members and \$15 for non-members. To register, call 619/232-3821 ext. 203, or register online at www.sdnhm.org.

May 19 Sat.

BUDS 'N BLOOMS GARDEN INFORMATION DAY. Booths on El Prado staffed with advisors from many local plant societies. 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

May 19 Sat.

★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY** will be open. See May 5 for details.

**AN (ALMOST) NEW
EVENT TO VISIT**

BY JUDY ATWELL

You may never have heard of North County's Rancho Buena Vista Adobe. If not, I must tell you that you are missing one of California's Greatest Treasures. The Rancho Buena Vista Adobe is an eleven-room Historical Adobe Ranch House decorated with turn of the century antiques. The Adobe, owned by the City of Vista but run by local volunteers, is situated in downtown Vista at 651 East Vista Way.

The Adobe provides many opportunities for individuals and groups to meet, have weddings, and enjoy other special occasions. But more importantly, it is here to provide local school children with a "hands-on" approach to learning how it felt to live in the early days of the Rancho, thus learning about the history of California.

This year alone we expect approximately seven thousand students to pass through our gates with their teachers to attend our "Adobe Days" program. In addition to this, hundreds of visitors from around the world will enjoy a stroll through our grounds to experience the days of the "California Dons" and learn about Vista's roll in the history of California.

This year on May 19th and 20th, from 10:00 to 4:00 daily, we will host our 2nd Flower and Garden Extravaganza, the "Fiesta de las Flores". The Adobe grounds will be ablaze with color and fabulous floral displays.

Experts in almost every field of gardening will be there to lecture and answer your gardening questions. You will also have the opportunity to tour the professionally decorated adobe and see many plant related products such as soap, candles, oils and lotions, yard sculptures, "garden jewelry", and the list goes on.

For children there will be gourd artists to help design their own special gourd. Lectures will be available for adults to enjoy and learn about protea, floral design, composting, and more, every half hour. There will be surprises around every corner.

Tickets that are good for both days of the event are \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children.

Food will be available for a nominal fee.

We hope to see you

May 19th and 20th. Sat.-Sun. At the Rancho Buena Vista Adobe, 651 East Vista Way, Vista. Questions, call 760/639-6164. Additional parking at Lincoln Middle School lot across Escondido Ave. and Vista City Hall parking area off Alta Vista Dr.



A Room at Rancho Buena Vista Adobe

May 19-20 Sat.-Sun.

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY 30th Annual Show and Sale. 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. both days. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

May 19 Sat.

CUYAMACA COLLEGE SPRING GARDEN FESTIVAL features "Art in the Garden." 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at the Ornamental Horticulture Field Site and the Water Conservation Garden, 900 Rancho San Diego Parkway, El Cajon. 619/660-4262. Free.

May 19-28 Sat.-Mon.

BOTANICAL ARTISTS GUILD OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA Annual Exhibit. Opening show and artist's reception on the 19th, 1:00-4:00 p.m. Exhibit continues May 20-28, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at Hortus, 284 East Orange Grove Blvd, Pasadena.

May 26 Sat.

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS Palm and Cycad Sale offered by the Palm Society of Southern California. Many rare and unusual varieties, as well as new introductions. 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. 760/436-3036. Free.

May 26-27 Sat.-Sun.

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP

SHOW 23rd Annual Bromeliad Plant Show and Sale. Includes competition, workshops on planting, mounting, and dividing. Sat. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.; Sun. 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

June 2 Sat.

★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY** will be open. See May 5 for details.

June 2-3 Sat.-Sun.

SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY Annual Show. 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. both days. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

June 10 Sun.

SOUTHWEST HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY (Daylily) Annual Show and Sale. 1:00-4:00 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

June 12 Tues.

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY monthly meeting featuring nurserywoman Carol Roller, "Taking Care of Your New Geranium." 7:30 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101.

June 15-July 4

2001 DEL MAR FAIR Flower & Garden Show "Endless Summer."

June 15 Fri.

2001 DEL MAR FAIR Opening Day "Gardeners' Delight Breakfast," includes lecture by Ed Hume,

preview of Flower & Garden Show. 8:00 a.m. \$20.
Other weekdays, for groups of 20 or more,
preview, guided tour, continental breakfast.
8:00 a.m. \$10 each. 858/794-1096.

June 16 Sat.

★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION LIBRARY** will be open. See May 5 for details.

June 16-17 Sat.-Sun.

SAN DIEGO FUCHSIA AND SHADE PLANT SOCIETY Fuchsia Show and Sale. Sat.
10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; Sun. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

June 19 Tues.

★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING** 6:30 p.m. social, beverage and dessert. 7:00 p.m. Meeting and speaker Gina Wright with tales of an English transplant. Cutting/plant exchange. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. No charge, no res.

June 23-24 Sat.-Sun.

SHOKA KAI OF IKEBANA Show.
Sat. 11:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.;
Sun. 10:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Balboa Park,
Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

June 30-July 1 Sat.-Sun.

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY Show and Sale. Sat. 12-4 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Balboa Park, Casa del Prado, Room 101. Free.

June 30-July 1 Sat.-Sun.

THE HUNTINGTON National Cactus and Succulent Show. Over 1000 award-winning plants. 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. both days.
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino.
General admission. 626/405-2100.

BALBOA PARK

SAN DIEGO JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN
Open Tues. thru Sun. 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Docent tours with reservations. Fee. 619/232-2721.

OFFSHOOT TOURS Ranger guided. Various topics. Saturdays 10:00 a.m. Meet at Visitors Center in Plaza de Panama. 619/235-1121. Free.

INTERPRETIVE WALKS Ranger guided. History oriented topics. Meet at Visitors Center in Plaza de Panama. Tuesdays and Sundays at 1:00 p.m. Free.

ONGOING EVENTS

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
Canyoneer Walks. Sat-Sun. Sept-June.
619/232-3821 ext 203 or www.sdnhm.org for locations, times, and directions. Free.

QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS Garden Tours & Events. 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. 230 Quail Gardens

Drive, Encinitas. General admission. 760/436-3036 or (www.qbgardens.com).

BLUE SKY ECOLOGICAL RESERVE Walks.

Poway. Sat. & Sun. 9:00 a.m. 858/679-5469.

WALKABOUT INTERNATIONAL Local Guided Walks. Newsletter. 619/231-SHOE. Free.

CUYAMACA COLLEGE Water Conservation

Garden Landscape Seminar on 2nd Saturday of each month. 9:30 a.m. Docent tours Sat. 10:30 a.m. and Sun. 1:30 p.m. 619/660-0614. Free.

GARDENING CLASSES

JOYCE GEMMELL

4-WEEK COURSE

Summer Vegetable Gardening: Varieties and culture for summer crops, soil preparation, irrigation, and pest control.

May 18-June 8 Fri.

9:00 a.m.-12:10 p.m. Foothills Adult Center,
Room 53. 1550 Melody Lane, El Cajon. \$13.
619/401-4122

DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB

2 DAY COURSE

Gardening Studies Class Course IV includes outdoor identification of plants (Pitake Gardens, Valley Center), techniques for growing fruit and woody ornamentals, specialized styles of gardening, growing plants under lights. Sponsored by Dos Valle Garden Club, Valley Center.

June 8 and 9 Fri.-Sat. (exam June 9 at 3 p.m.)
\$40.

Registration deadline May 25, 2001

Contact: Barbara Watzke, P.O. Box 1524, Valley Center, CA 92082. 760/749-5384, or e-mail clanwatv@juno.com.

Deadline for submission to **HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR** for July-August issue is MAY 15. **SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION** is not responsible for changes that are submitted late by the organizations.

Beautiful Plants for Sale at Reasonable Prices
67th ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW
AND PLANT SALE
"LOOK FOR BEAUTY EVERYWHERE"
VISTA GARDEN CLUB (760/941-7889)

SAT. MAY 5 1:30-5:00 P.M.
SUN. MAY 6 10:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M.
BREngle TERRACE PARK
SENIOR CENTER, 1400 VALE TERRACE,
VISTA — NO ADMISSION CHARGE
Competition Open to All Amateur Gardeners

Gleanings . . .

gathered by barbara jones

GROUND COVERS . . .

Varieties of ice plant are the most used ground cover in California, and gazanias come in second. These are the daisy-like plants that often line the highways and brighten areas around commercial buildings.

RANUNCULUS . . .

The Flower Field has been in glorious bloom through April and will continue through May. If you have not seen the fields of Giant Tecolote ranunculus, go now. They are actually grown as a commercial crop and about 8.5 million tubers are harvested in the fall. The ranunculus fields have been here for 65 years, and only recently have been developed into a horticultural tourist park. Other plants are grown, and special garden rooms are designed by artists. Plants and horticulture-type items can be purchased, too.

PLANT EXPLORER . . .

In America from the 1890s through the 1920s was the age of exploration for plants. It is estimated that during that period over 200,000 plants were introduced into the U.S. In 1910, records show that an average of 10 plants a day arrived at the government greenhouse in Washington, D.C. for testing. Many of the introductions were done by David Fairchild, a botanist hired by the United States Department of Agriculture. He did some of his own exploring and his books about his experiences are fascinating.

Our own Kate Sessions was in

contact with the Department of Agriculture, and she "tried-out" some of these new plants in San Diego.

FLOWER TRADE . . .

There was a very informative article about the world-wide commercial flower trade in the April *National Geographic*. Excellent pictures. It is estimated that about 15 billion dollars per year are spent on purchasing flowers and plants.

In California, the largest flower market is in Los Angeles followed by San Francisco.

In the U.S. about 70% of the cut flowers are imported. The largest exporter of flowers in the world is the Netherlands, which exports 60% of the world market.

PLANT TRIVIA . . .

Everyone knows about the vegetable/fruit classification for tomatoes. Tomatoes are usually listed as a vegetable, but botanically it is a fruit.

Many plants listed as nuts are botanically seeds. A true nut is a one seed fruit with hard walls that do not split open on their own. A good example is the chestnut and the hazelnut. Almonds, walnuts, Brazil nuts, and peanuts are found inside a pod or shell and botanically are seeds.

A really interesting plant is the banana tree. The trunk is not woody and is composed of the leaf stalks. So it is not a tree and is classified as a herbaceous perennial. The elongated, pulpy fruit is botanically a berry. It is one of the

world's main food crops. More food per acre is produced by banana "trees" than any other plant grown for food.

AFRICAN VIOLETS . . .

African Violets are one of the most popular houseplants in the U.S. Plants are available very inexpensively in specialty stores, food markets, and home stores. The flowers are violet, blue, pink, white, and bicolor. They were discovered in East Africa in the late 1800s. Many growers use a light to grow African violets but most prefer an east-facing window. They are easy to grow and most people have good results. It is possible to propagate African violets from leaves. Healthy leaves from inside of the plant are usually best. About one inch of the stem should be attached. Use a planting mix of one-half perlite and one-half vermiculite. The stem should be inserted into the mix. Water the container well and cover it with clear plastic. (A bag will do if the container is small enough.) Don't water again until the planting mix is dry. Some people are able to start plants in water only. Whatever method you use, if you are successful, little plants should form around the leaf in a few weeks. They can be cut off when they are about an inch in diameter and planted into separate pots.

There are many excellent books on growing these popular plants, but your best advice for growing in this area is in the African Violet section of *Now is the Time in California Garden*.

DISCOURAGING FIRE: LOW-FUEL-COMBUSTIBLE PLANTS MAY SAVE US

BY TINEKE WILDERS

OUR MEDITERRANEAN-TYPE CLIMATE produces a cool, moist growing season, followed by long, hot and dry summers, making it very vulnerable to wildfires. To make things even worse, our infamous dry Santa Ana winds during the fire season can blow as hard as 100 miles per hour, and do not only spread flames, but also dry out brush, creating potential hazardous fuel.

Many homes in Southern California are situated on hillsides, ridgetops, in canyons, or in a chaparral, brushland environment, making the landscaping a prime target for wildfires. Some of our most common chaparral plants that dominate Southern California brushlands are: manzanita, ceanothus (California lilac), scrub oak, wild buckwheat, and coastal sage.

When people's lives and homes are threatened (and tragically destroyed!) in wildfires, we have to take a serious look at how we can protect ourselves and our dwellings from the fires, which seem to ignite regularly. In some instances, chaparral wildfires have been set off spontaneously, but more often intentionally by a simple yet irresponsible act of throwing a smoldering match or cigarette out of a car's window. This was the case in the most recent wildfire in Alpine.

An expert on landscaping with low-fuel combustible (meaning: fire-retardant) plants, is Ronald Pecoff of Escondido, a highly respected and internationally renowned horticulturist, whose expertise is plants for adverse conditions, drought-tolerant plants, and plants for erosion control. I interviewed Pecoff recently for this article and quizzed him on the subject of "how to fire-proof your landscaping."

Pecoff: "There is no 'fire-resistant' plant, but some plants can be considered fire-retardant, meaning they are less flammable than others—depending on the oil and mineral content of the foliage. Chaparral plants have a remarkable adaptation to fires; some produce seeds that germinate spontaneously only after being scarified (heated) by fire."

This phenomena was demonstrated in the 1995 Questhaven wildfire (that caused major damage and loss of many homes in Elfin Forest area, southwest of Escondido). As Pecoff explains: "The last time that this area burnt was in 1943, and after the 1995 fire, followed by rain, light rose poppies [*Papaver apulum* var. *microanthemum*, 12-18 inches, related to Shirley and Iceland poppies] came up for the first time since 1943

(seeds were dormant all this time). The following year the poppies set seed, and the year after there were less. In consecutive years there were none, as other species started to dominate the environment."

If you are living in a highly fire-prone area, following are some basic recommendations made by Pecoff that you can use to protect (or prepare) yourself. First of all: analyze the surrounding landscaping. What kind of plants are growing there? According to Pecoff, we need to remove highly combustible California native plant species that are full of volatile oils, such as sage, golden yarrow (a summer deciduous perennial, adding dry brush to the ground), California buckwheat, laurel sumac, and lemonade berry. Replace these with low-fuel combustibles (fire-retardant plants), such as *Limonium pectinatum* (is salt tolerant); *Cassia coquimbensis*; salt bush (*Atriplex rhagodioides*), native to West Australia, which is high in boron and sodium chloride, making it a slow-to-ignite, low-fuel combustible.

To develop protective margins, there may be a need for brush-conversion. For instance, some plants, such as the prostrate rosemary and coyote bush (*Baccharis pilularis*) while excellent species in landscaping, will burn readily. They are drought tolerant, low growing, but have volatile oils that are explosive, yet these plants are aesthetically pleasing and are adapted to our Southern California climate.

Trees to avoid: all species of acacia and eucalyptus.

Conifers and other plants with leaves high in oil content, such as cedar, cypress, juniper, and pine can be relatively flammable, even when irrigated.

Drought-tolerant and low-fuel combustible species (which may smolder) should be used within the 30-foot clearance. Use low profile plants (not exceeding 6-12 inches in height), such as most succulents, ice plant, *Dudleya* (California native), and naturalized exotics, such as *Atriplex semibaccata* (creeping saltbush) and *Galenia pubescens*.

Trees should be kept trimmed with no dead limbs near or overhanging adjacent structures.

Roof surfaces and gutters should be kept free of debris such as pine needles, leaves from deciduous trees, and eucalyptus (especially flammable!).

All weeds should be mowed down and debris within 100

feet of a structure or within 10 feet of a road or wooden fence should be removed.

Clear spaces are needed where property adjoins open natural areas that host flammable native vegetative species. Also, along roadways that are very susceptible to fire, a fuel-modification landscape design is extremely essential.

Use low profile plants, such as: aloes, ice plant, which is full of moisture, rockrose (*Cistus corsicus*), *C. salviifolius*, and *C. crispus*. These are not summer deciduous (as many mediterranean plants are), so that there is no dried plant material that will easily burn.

Pecoff continues: "People can still include tropical plants around their homes, but they need to set up a barrier between the house and the chaparral, particularly on hillsides and chaparral community. The barrier should be of ideally at least 200 feet wide with low-fuel combustible species that act and look like natives, without the volatile oils and foliage that will burn. Low fuel means: the plants have no volatile oils and little to no wood to sustain fire.

During the 1980 San Bernardino fire that claimed 286 homes, one estate was surrounded by a well-maintained and irrigated "green belt" that escaped damage even though fire was burning on both sides. Irrigation is important for fire-prevention landscape, and sprinklers (consider rooftop sprinklers) also may reduce fire insurance premiums."

Pecoff's personal recommendations for fire-retardant plants are:

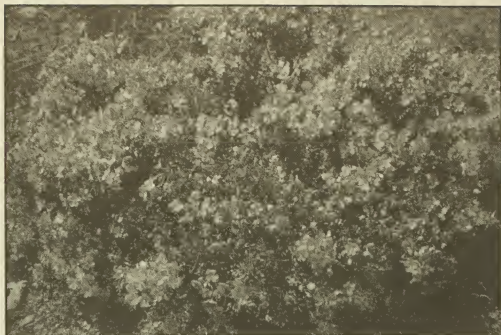
Galenia pubescens, an evergreen native to South Africa, won't burn and grows 3-4 inches tall and 3-10 feet wide.

Cistus crispus (native to Spain and Mediterranean)

Atriplex rhagodioides (native to Western Australia)—this is the plant that in the Harmony Grove fire smoldered, but did not burn, even though the fire was intense.

SOURCES: Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Gardens in Claremont and San Marcos Growers, in Santa Barbara. Local nurseries can order plants here or a good qualified nurseryman should be able to locate any desired plant material for you. □

Tineke Wilders is a freelance garden writer/broadcaster who lives and gardens in North County. You may e-mail her at: tinekegardens@juno.com



CASSIA COQUIEMBENSIS

CHARACTERISTICS: A dense ball-like evergreen shrub growing 3'-4' high and 3'-6' wide with pinnately compound, soft light-green pubescent leaves. It has masses of bright yellow flowers clustered in short racemes along the tips of its stems. A well rounded dense-to-compact species with leaves and flowers sheathed to the ground.

GROWING CONDITIONS: A native to the central coastal plateaus of Chile, it is indigenous to a 2-8 foot rainfall. It has the ability to withstand extreme drought up to 3-4 years without any rainfall or supplemental irrigation and still survive only on fog and dew that condenses on the leaves and soil at night. It tolerates temperatures from 25°-125°F (-4° to 103°C) and ordinarily grows at elevations from sea level to 5,000 feet in its natural habitat.

SOIL: An extremely versatile and tolerant species, often growing between the cracks and crevices of volcanic rock as well as decomposed and fractured basaltic rock. It also can be grown in gravels and pure sands, caliche clays, San Juan Capistrano oil stone soil, and ancient ocean bed salty clays. It tolerates a pH range from 5.0-8.0 and Ece salinity levels from 5-7. Several plants have been observed growing in gravelly conglomerated sandstone pebble soils along flood plains and wadi or canyon areas.

PLANT USAGE: As a dark green, mounding sub-shrub for erosion control purposes on hillside cut and fill slopes. It has masses of yellow flowers producing color contrast for use in xerophytic landscape projects. Blends with ornamental species as well as desert varieties. Can be hydroseeded or hand planted.

By Ronald Pecoff, Photograph by the author
[Ed. Note: Some botanists believe this plant should be reclassified to *Senna cumingii* var. *coquiembensis*, but not all agree.]



CISTUS CORSICUS

CHARACTERISTICS: A low procumbent-to-mounding, dense sub-shrub growing from 1.5'-3.0' in height and 5'-7' wide. A woody mounding species that has dull green coriaceous [like leather] foliage that is retained to ground level. The flowers are 3" across, mauve-to-pink in color and produce a show of color during the late winter, spring, and early summer months.

GROWING CONDITIONS: A true mediterranean species, native to the island of Corsica. It has naturalized in Southern California within a rainfall zone of 8"-25" per year. A truly adaptable species, it has tolerated desert temperatures from 15°-118°F (-10°-45°C) and winds to 80 mph with no damage and very little defoliation. Unlike the other members of the *Cistus* genus, which are short-lived, *Cistus corsicus* plantings are still in a vigorous growing state forty years after its initial planting, indicating that *C. corsicus* is a long-lived dependable species.

SOIL: Adaptable to a wide range of soils including sand, silt, clays, gravels, fractured sandstone rock, fractured granite rock, and conglomerated sandstone pebbles (Poway rock formations). It can tolerate pH's from 6.0—7.8 but the full extent of its pH and Ece tolerances is still unknown.

PLANT USAGE: An excellent specie for mass plantings or hedge areas. A mounding specie good for freeway or expressway planting. A softening cover for highly reflective sand dunes or rocky slopes.

BY RONALD PECOFF, PHOTOGRAPH BY THE AUTHOR



LIMONIUM PECTINATUM - Plumbaginaceae

CHARACTERISTICS: An attractive herbaceous perennial ground cover from 1-8 cm [about $\frac{3}{8}$ - $\frac{3}{16}$ "] high and 50-75 cm [about 1'7 $\frac{3}{4}$ "-2'5 $\frac{1}{2}$ "] across. Its dark rich green spatulate [spoon-shaped in outline and attached at the narrow end] leaves emerge from a densely compacted basal rosette forming a tight compact ground cover that spreads horizontally. Its flowering spike of inflorescence grows from the center of each rosette. The flowering stem from each rosette in summer can grow to 45 cm [about 1'5 $\frac{3}{4}$ "] high and have pale mauve pink/purple calyx bracts. The hook-like flowers borne on inflorescent bracts all along the flowering spike provide an attractive splash of color while having a rich green foliage color.

GROWING CONDITIONS: A native of the coastal cliffs of the Canary Islands, it has adapted to a variety of conditions from coastal sand dunes at high tide levels to succoring in the cracks and crevices of coral rock. It has been grown in the Borrego Desert of California and hydro-seeded in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. It tolerates temperatures from -8.8°-53.3°C. It requires a 350 mm [about 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches] rainfall or equal amounts of supplemental irrigation.

SOILS: Can grow in sands, decomposed hard rock, clay, and will tolerate estuary salt pans with halophytes surviving in Ece of 3.4, pH of 9.2 and boron of 7.5.

MAINTENANCE: Would be limited to supplemental irrigation to sustain maximum turgidity and plant vigor. Nutrient requirements are very low. Application of a balanced NPK fertilizer twice a year is more than adequate. Trimming or mowing to remove old flower spikes would be necessary once a year to maintain a compact tight look.

PLANT USAGE: As a compact perennial ground cover for gardens, play areas, Neighborhood Loop roads, medians, as well as a lawn replacement that can be periodically walked on for both desert and coastal regions.

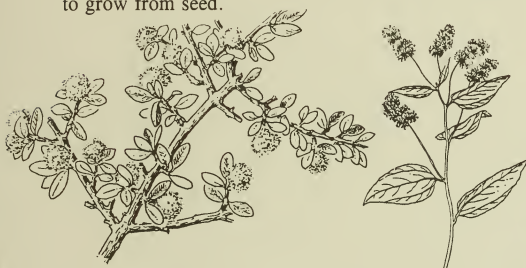
BY RONALD PECOFF, PHOTOGRAPH BY THE AUTHOR

PROPAGATING *CEANOOTHUS*

BY JEANINE DE HART

THIS IS THE FIRST of what I hope to be a series of articles on the propagation of some of the most desirable of the California native plants. The ones that I have chosen will be the easiest for the novice to propagate. Let's fill California with native plants that are as beautiful as the ones from other places and take a lot less care.

Spring is just around the corner and, after our bountiful rainfall, should provide us with a great color palate. The *Ceanothus* should be turning our green hills into shades from white to a dazzling blue. These beautiful California natives are easy for even the novice to grow from seed.



Ceanothus greggii

Ceanothus americanus

The first step in seed propagation is to know when to gather the seed. If you need to pick the seed ripe, timing becomes all important. Fortunately with our *Ceanothus* that is not the case. We might be hiking along a trail, spot a nice deep blue plant and decide to try to grow that one. We might not even know which species it is. It does not matter. The seed of *Ceanothus* is all handled the same.

We pick the seed green. After it ripens, it explodes, the correct term for this is *dehisce*. The seed will travel a long way from the parent to better insure survival. By picking it green, we control the environment for the ripening. Now we need to line a container with aluminum foil to better reflect the sun; spread the seed around; cover with fine screen to prevent escape; and set the container in full sun. If the weather is cold and damp, wait until warm weather returns. These seeds will keep for a long time.

After the seeds ripen and dehisce, collect them, label, and date. Now we are ready for step two. We take a sandwich bag that can be sealed, not a freezer bag. A sandwich bag does allow for some air movement, a freezer bag does not. Fill the bag about two-thirds full

of damp potting mix, sand, or mixtures that you normally plant seed in. I like a little potting mix mixed with perlite. Make sure the mixture is good and damp, but not wet. Mix your seed in the mixture; seal and refrigerate. Check after thirty days. As soon as one sprouts, plant them all. Just spread the bagful as evenly as possible in a flat of a similar mixture. Cover with a little soil mix just so the seed is not visible and put in a cool shaded area.

After the seeds have sprouted and the roots are a few inches long, plant individually into 4" pots. Let them root out well before planting into the ground or into one-gallon pots. It will be best to plant them in the ground in the fall. You will then be taking advantage of winter rains for them to become established. Do not expect to see much growth after planting as during the colder weather the roots grow. After the weather turns warm in the spring, the tops will grow. □

Jeanine De Hart is the author of Propagation Secrets for California Native Plants

Sitting by the rushing river - on the leaves of reeds that quiver, faeries gaze at skies so blue - while sipping tea of morning dew

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Sitting by the rushing river - on the leaves of reeds that quiver, faeries gaze at skies so blue - while sipping tea of morning dew

BY BETTY NEWTON

FLOWERING MAPLES ARE CHANGING

SOMETHING WONDERFUL IS GOING on in the world of abutillons. It is interesting to watch. Not even all of the nurseries have picked up on the innovation.

You remember *Abutillons*. Known to beginning gardeners as flowering maples or Chinese lanterns, they have hanging, slightly papery flowers, open at the bottom as if to shed some light. The 1½-inch leaves are a bit like those of some maple trees because they often have three lobes. Unlike maple trees this woody-stemmed garden plant makes an open bush. With tip pinching (taking off the last leaves and growing point) this garden plant might be 4 feet tall. One I know in the middle of a lawn was a gangly 10 feet with only two branches!

Abutilon hybridus was a favorite in the thirties; it has been around quite a while. But the new bigger, thicker bushes with quantities of 3-inch wide, sherbet-colored lanterns are new. I have seen one growing 8 feet tall and 4 feet wide with a great many of the new bigger flowers. It is beautiful. I'll want more.

We can live with the fact that abutilon gets giant white fly. We have had that pest (the one that makes beards blowing in the breeze) long enough to know you get considerable control by hosing off the leaves each week. (UC Cooperative Extension has found and released beneficial predators and the results are being evaluated.)

Abutillons come from warm climates all over the world, tropics to subtropics. There is even a native *Abutilon* in San Diego County, *A. palmeri*, which grows on a few rocky slopes of the desert and blooms with a warm yellow flower and 1-2½-inch gray-green, felted leaves. A few home growers and drought-resistant gardens have this.

Fausto Palafox, owner of the two Mission Hills Nurseries (one in Alpine), speaks of seeing the new abutillons, some of them more open, and with more variegation on the leaves, some almost white. He points out that this plant needs more shade when grown in inland valleys. Randy Atrat, with Walter Andersen's Nursery (now two) for years is seeing other offerings—one a new light yellow and green variegated leaf and a

much *smaller flower*, about 1 inch in length. That might be a cute effect in the right place.

Mike Hirsh's Anderson's La Costa Nursery in Leucadia had what I wanted: large, open flowers in sherbet colors. I bought cream and peach and shared.



Abutilon hybridus

Both are growing bushy. The cream blooms *profusely*. Some books say late winter and early spring blooming. Near the coast, I doubt you can stop them.

A wholesale grower in Arroyo Grande says they are propagating the new abutillons from cuttings from mother plants 4 to 8 feet tall. The variety names include 'Tangelo', red orange; 'Souvenir de Boon', pale peach; 'Savitsiu' in apricot orange, and 'Apricot Glow', a peach. Explore and enjoy. □

Betty Newton has taught landscaping and flower gardening classes for many years at Grossmont Adult Education. She also wrote for the San Diego Union Tribune for seventeen years.

Illustration by Cherie Ann Gossett.

PROTECTING THE PLANT KINGDOM

BY MARIANNE TRUBY

WHILE MUCH IS WRITTEN about the work with the animals at the San Diego Zoo, little is written about the valuable asset the plant materials contribute to our area and the world. The botanical collection with over six thousand plant species, includes prized orchids, fig trees, palms, and coral trees. This collection is now considered more, or at least as valuable as, the animals.

The power of plants to provide the opportunity for us to refresh our minds and promote a feeling of well-being relaxation are well known. Parks, rooftop gardens, and balcony planters all abound in metropolitan centers to refresh us, and the busy life we lead. The animals at the Zoo enjoy the shade and also use plants as food. This material known as browse includes foliage and seed from the park as well as donated prunings from groundskeepers throughout the area.

In addition, the San Diego climate and the museum status of the San Diego Zoo have enabled botanists to contribute to the search for medicines. Our location in a unique, easily accessible area, with rare trees and plant materials available year around to plant hunters, is a little known but important contribution to this ongoing goal.

Visitors are astounded by the number and variety of flowering trees. The coral trees with the bursts of red flowers on nearly bare branches is one example of hundreds of plants with biochemical activity. This makes it inedible to its enemies. The bark of the coral tree is being used to produce an anti-inflammatory substance.

Other diverse weapons are often hidden in chemical

defenses. These defenses provide us with important medicines. Digitoxin—derived from purple foxglove leaves—provides us with our most effective weapon against heart failure.

Herbal medicines are at the root of western pharmaceuticals and provide essential medicines such as aspirin, morphine, and quinine. Less than two percent of the plant species in the world has been studied for medicinal potential.

The move to test plants now used for traditional healing is also responsible for the majority of plant-derived medicines we use today. Aspirin, from the bark of the willow tree, was used to treat arthritis and sore bones long before the compound aspirin became available.

Forestation and cultures are lost, knowledge and use of native healing traditions are lost. With the astounding variety of plants in the horticulture collections here in our Zoo and Wild Animal Park we are able to provide rare and unusual plants for testing.

The next time you take your grandchildren to the Zoo, do as I do, look at the beautiful setting with appreciation for its beauty and the possibility it may contribute to a better life for all the animals including the two-legged ones such as you and I. □

Marianne Truby is an American Rose Society consulting rosarian and judge; ARS director of the Pacific Southwest 1980 to 1983; past president of the San Diego Rose Society and of the San Diego Floral Association.

Photograph taken by Betty Newton at the Garden Masters Spring Home/Garden Show on March 1, 2001.

This display by Jeff Moore of Solana Succulents was titled "Seussian Succulence."

Newton hopes this glimpse of beauty from the three-day garden design show may motivate you to plan to attend the show next March, or even the Gala the night before.



LILIES

BY ROBERT HORWITZ



THE LILY FAMILY OF plants is found world wide, and what makes them a distinctive flowering plant is that over the years they have gained religious significance. There are over one hundred varieties of lilies worldwide that grow in high mountains, on the plains, and in the forests. What would Easter and Christmas be without being able to decorate with lilies?

Lilium longiflorum is the classical Easter lily. In our areas of the world, it blooms from the first of the year clear into summer. It has oblate green leaves that can get to be as much as eight inches long with lovely white flowers, some scented, on long green stems reaching as much as two feet into the air. In the center of the flower is the yellow pollen stem contrasting with the brilliant white of the flowers.

The tiger lily, properly known as *Lilium lancifolium*, that comes from the Orient is another favorite of San Diegans. One of its virtues aside from its beauty is that it can grow well in poor soils and its blooming season picks up where the Easter Lily leaves off.

Lily cultivation for the most part is somewhat demanding. It is a bulb plant, so you can obtain them to plant in bulbs or better yet get them already growing in containers. If you get the bulbs, do not delay planting as the bulb roots are tender. Plant them where they can get a fair amount of sun and where you can keep the roots moist and cool. The soil for most varieties needs to be rich and well draining. Fertilize only after the blooms have stopped as too much fertilizer will discourage flower growth and emphasize leaf growth.

Lilies are fairly pest free. Diseases are manifested by mottled leaves and stunted growth. Aphids help spread the leaf infection. Also, if there are gophers in your area, they will feast on the bulbs! Root crowding doesn't seem a problem, but if the plant outgrows its environment, it can be split into individual bulb sections and repotted or put back into the ground.

Container growing of lilies is quite satisfactory and gives the gardener the option of showing them off when in bloom and tucking them into a discreet corner during the dormant times. □

Robert Horwitz is a retired aerospace engineer who gardens in the Point Loma section of San Diego.

VEGETABLES TO PLANT NOW

BY GEORGE JAMES



THE WEATHER DURING MAY and June in the coastal areas of Southern California is usually overcast and cool — not the best for growing some vegetables that are thought of as being summer crops. The root crops such as beets, carrots, radishes, and turnips grow well under these conditions, as do snap beans, summer squash, corn, and cucumbers, all of which can be grown from seed. In addition, plants of celery, eggplant, peppers, onion, and tomatoes can be set out successfully. Cantaloupes, lima beans, pumpkins, watermelons, and winter squash will grow better a little later when the weather is warmer, with the seed planted about the first of July. Lettuce and spinach do not do well in the hottest part of the year, but if grown for harvest during the summer and fall the quality will be better if they are grown in partial shade. Endive can be grown instead of lettuce and New Zealand spinach instead of the conventional varieties, both of which stand warm weather better.

In warmer weather it is important that plants always have an adequate supply of water. Irrigation by flooding or in furrows is preferable to sprinkling, which wets the foliage and encourages diseases.

Fertilization, as well as irrigation, is necessary to grow good quality vegetables. The kind of commercial fertilizer that will give the best results is one called a tomato or vegetable fertilizer. They contain a higher percentage of phosphorous than nitrogen. If a fertilizer is used that has a much higher level of nitrogen than phosphorous, or contains only nitrogen, plant growth can be excessive, which reduces the yield and quality of the edible parts. The practice of mixing fertilizer into the soil before planting has proven beneficial. Some gardens, where the soil is not fertile, or where there are roots from shrubs and trees that compete for food, may need more frequent feedings. It is safer to increase the frequency of applications than to increase the amount applied at each application.

Reprinted from *California Garden*, May-June 1976 (67:3:89).



Now is the Time . . .

A CULTURAL CALENDAR OF CARE FROM OUR AFFILIATES,
UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION, AND CALIFORNIA GARDEN STAFF

AFRICAN VIOLETS

Helen La Gamma

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATER only when soil is dry.

TO REPOT only if necessary.

TO TAKE the time to groom your violets by removing the lower row of leaves and all flower stems.

TO SEE that you have proper soil: light, porous and with good drainage.

TO PUT all plants on wicks using a 3½ to 4 cup reservoir.

TO HAVE 12 to 14 hours of light daily.

TO HAVE proper spacing—provide room for good air circulation.

TO USE good fertilizer according to the instruction at each watering.

BEGONIAS

Margaret Lee

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATCH tuberous begonias for signs of mildew, correct with dust and spray.

TO CHECK cane type begonias and cut back if needed.

TO WATCH for insects, wash off with water.

TO FINISH repotting where needed; use a light porous mixture.

TO FEED plants with a well-balanced all-purpose fertilizer.

TO WATER as needed—keep moist but *not wet*.

TO CHECK tuberous type for drainage; repot to larger container if needed, add fresh soil. Stake any tall stems.

BONSAI

San Diego Bonsai Club, Inc.

NOW IS THE TIME

TO DEVELOP a watering schedule, but avoid

overwatering, especially the pines.

TO PRUNE all trees to promote growth and shape. Tip prune junipers and pines using finger pruning instead of cutting tools that cause brown tips.

TO SPRAY for insects as needed, using either a systemic or a mild surface insecticide.

TO SHAPE deciduous trees. Defoliate the deciduous trees in June. They may be transplanted afterwards.

TO CONTROL any mildew that may appear; use sulfur or a spray.

TO FERTILIZE trees with an organic fertilizer. Do not overfeed the pines.

TO COMPLETE the repotting of all trees that have not been repotted, except for the flowering trees that have not completed their blooming cycle.

TO PLACE trees to receive optimal sun, but do not place in full sun after 11:00AM to prevent sunburning.

TO ROTATE trees often to maintain proper shape.

BROMELIADS

Mary Siemers

NOW IS THE TIME

TO FERTILIZE the outdoor plants during warm months only. Plants in greenhouse can be fertilized year-round.

TO USE a water-soluble fertilizer—one high in acid, using only ½ the recommended strength on label.

TO CUT new offshoots to make new plants during the summer when weather is warm. Offshoots must be ½ to ⅓ the size of the mother plant.

TO KEEP plants clean at all times by cutting spent blooms and dead leaves—this helps to keep plants healthy.

TO CHECK plants for scale. If needed treat with Cygon 2-E according to directions on the bottle. If scale remains give same treatment in two weeks.

TO GIVE plants plenty of air circulation and provide humidity by watering the ground around plants.

CACTI & SUCCULENTS

Joseph Betzler

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATER plants, as needed. When pots get noticeably light in weight, water them.

TO FERTILIZE for growth and flowering. Allow the winter growers to go dormant and rest before feeding.

TO PROTECT the plants from brilliant sun. Shade cloth can keep plants from being bleached out on very hot days.

TO CHECK any additions to your collection for insect pests. Keep them away from rest of plants. If pests or disease are noticed, treat at once.

TO REPOT those plants needing it; use a well-

draining mix. A good rule of thumb is to allow an inch between plant and the pot.

TO REPOT seedlings when they have doubled or tripled in size. If they have been in the same mix for over six months, it is a good idea to repot.

TO CHECK entire collection for any pests or disease; if so, treat at once to avoid an infestation.

CAMELIAS

NOW IS THE TIME

TO START a feeding program when they finish blooming. Use an acid-type fertilizer: cottonseed meal, camellia food, or liquid fish.

TO BE SURE to water well the day before feeding, never fertilize a dry plant.

TO TRANSPLANT those plants that have not started their new growth.

TO REPOT those plants that have outgrown their pots. Move to one size larger pot per time.

TO MULCH plants. This helps to keep the soil uniformly moist and the weeds controlled.

TO PRUNE out unwanted new growth; shape and thin out center.

TO SPRAY for insects as they appear; use Cygon for looper worms and aphids. Use a miticide if mites appear later.

TO ESTABLISH and maintain a uniform watering routine. Plants should never be allowed to go dry.

DAHLIAS

Abe Janzen

NOW IS THE TIME

TO FEED with low nitrogen fertilizer (4-10-10), either dry or liquid.

TO SPRAY weekly to control insects. Guard against leaf miners, thrips, and aphids. Try a systemic; if spraying, use a weak solution on new foliage.

TO WATER when top of soil is dry; when buds are forming, soak deeply and often.

TO PLANT smaller varieties and give regular care for growing.

TO BE SURE to draw the soil up around the plants as they grow.

TO PINCH out centers of plants when two or three sets of leaves have developed.

EPIPHYLLUMS (Orchid Cactus)

Abe Janzen

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PRUNE plants to shape—take cuttings after flowering.

TO PUT out snail bait and watch for other pests.

TO REMOVE wilted flowers by cutting about ¾" out from leaf unless you desire seed to form.

TO TAKE CARE in watering, do *NOT* allow to dry out; keep soil damp, but *NOT* wet.

TO GIVE plants a balanced feeding after blooming season.

TO STAKE long spindly growth.

TO PROTECT foliage from the hot summer sun. Maintain plants in filtered sunlight.

FERNS

San Diego Fern Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO REMOVE dead fronds.

TO PLANT spores.

TO USE a high-nitrogen fertilizer liquid or pellets twice a month.

TO SPRAY for aphids and scale if necessary.

TO WATER thoroughly; maintain humidity by watering surrounding areas.

FRUIT TREES AND VINES

Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor, UC Coop Extension
NOW IS THE TIME

TO IRRIGATE thoroughly as needed to maintain adequate soil moisture. Apply water around mature trees in a broad band beginning ⅓ of the distance from the trunk to the tree's drip line and extending out beyond the drip line a few feet. Apply enough water to wet the soil at least 2 feet deep (about 3 inches of water on a loam soil).

TO REMOVE grass and weeds from soil under a tree's canopy.

TO APPLY a layer of organic mulch on the soil under trees to conserve moisture. Keep mulch at least one foot away from the trunk to protect trees from crown rot. Complete thinning apples, pears and stone fruit after "June drop."

TO REMOVE any suckers growing from rootstock.

TO WASH trees periodically with a forceful spray of water to remove dust, honeydew and pests like aphids, whiteflies and spider mites.

TO SPRAY walnuts with carbaryl (Sevin) when nuts are about the size of a nickel and again three weeks later to control codling moth larvae (wormy nuts).

FUCHSIAS

William Selby

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PINCH plants for shape and bushy growth.

TO CHANGE to 5-10-10 fertilizer to hasten maturity.

TO WATCH for insects and pests. Spray or use a systemic eradicator; use amount recommended by

manufacturer or less, do *NOT* use an oil spray.

TO BE SURE to water an hour or more prior to application of an insecticide.

TO CONTROL snails, use metaldehyde or other bait according to directions.

TO KEEP plants clean of debris and spent blooms.

TO TURN baskets regularly so they do not become one-sided.

TO WATCH plants on hot or windy days. Do *NOT* allow them to dry out; keep damp but *NOT* WET.

GERANIUMS (Pelargoniums)

Carol Roller

NOW IS THE TIME

TO WATER thoroughly when plants become somewhat dry. Allow the excess water to drain away. Keep foliage as dry as possible. Provide the best possible drainage for the plants, both in containers and the landscape. Watch for botrytis (gray mold) and treat it immediately.

TO CONTINUE feeding with a balanced fertilizer containing micronutrients. Dissolve in water, using less than the recommended strength. Use often enough to keep plants growing well. Long term pellets may be worked into the soil or potting mix.

TO CONTINUE pest control and disease prevention, using all products according to the manufacturer's directions.

TO SELECTIVELY prune and pinch ivies and zonals for future bloom. Avoid cutting regals and scented because this is their flowering season.

TO MAKE cuttings from the ivy and zonal prunings, if desired.

TO REMOVE faded flowers and old, discolored leaves.

TO ROTATE pots on a regular basis in order to produce well-shaped plants.

TO ENJOY your plants at the peak of their season.

HERBS

John Noble

NOW IS THE TIME

TO MAKE a cup of tea. Use fresh green spring herbs, comfrey, sage, mint.

TO HARVEST salad green herbs, dandelion, salad burnet, french sorrel, dill, basil.

TO FINISH any heavy pruning before the long hot dry summer gets strong.

TO FILL in any bare areas with summer growing herbs, basil, cayenne, parsley, valerian, fever few.

TO MULCH with organic compost.

TO PLAN to attend the annual herb festival at Quail Botanical Garden in June.

IRIS

San Diego/Imperial County Iris Society

NOW IS THE TIME

TO ALLOW cut surfaces of the rhizomes to dry and be exposed to sunlight before planting or give a light dusting of soil sulfur. May be placed in vitamin B solution for awhile before planting.

TO HAVE beds prepared for planting and transplanting. Work in humus, soil sulfur, and some decomposed manure.

TO WATCH for aphids. May use a systemic insecticide.

TO FEED spurias with a low-nitrogen fertilizer.

TO KEEP watering all iris that are still blooming.

TO FEED Siberians after blooming with a balanced fertilizer to assure bloom for next year.

TO FEED Louisianas with a balanced food, but wait until June to dig and transplant.

TO FEED Japanese iris with camellia food; add to water in which they are growing.

NATIVES

Jeanine De Hart

NOW IS THE TIME

TO TAPER off watering the natives. We should be getting into our warmer, drier weather soon. Newly planted natives will need a bit more watering, but no natives like to be kept wet unless they are natives from a wetland habitat.

TO GET rid of ants on and around your plants. This will allow the mealybug destroyers to kill the mealybugs. Continue monitoring for other insect pests. If you don't use pesticides, oft times the natural enemies of the pests will do the work for you.

TO BE vigilant in your weed control. The weeds will be extra large and tough this year with all of our rain. Remember, the weeds make better use of the resources than our desirable plants do!

TO AVOID watering during the heat of the day. The natives are sensitive to the effects of the sun's rays on the water droplets and will burn readily.

TO CHECK your yard for places where you might like to plant natives in the fall. Pay attention to the drainage and whether or not it is a sunny or shady spot. There are natives that will thrive in any location. It is just a matter of the right plant for the right place.

TO CHECK *Ceanothus* for evidence of stem gall moth (*Periploca ceanothiella*). The signs of this critter will be a thickening around the bud. The cure is a systemic and controlled watering so as not to have an off season flush of growth.

TO CONTINUE planting seed of California wildflowers, such as California poppies, for later summer bloom.

TO VISIT the mountains or other spots that have an abundance of native plants in bloom. There should be

some interesting fire species around the Viejas burn. A drive to East County and other sparsely populated areas will provide a good show in the spring and early summer.

ORCHIDS

Charles Fouquette

NOW IS THE TIME

TO OBSERVE the weather—be prepared to shade areas of heavy sunlight, use shade cloth or liquid shading compound on glass or overhead.

TO MAINTAIN pest control against red spider, mealy bugs, and scale; consider getting some ladybugs or praying mantis egg cases—available at some orchid nurseries in the area.

TO AVOID sudden temperature changes or drafts around plants. Spray and mist on hot dry days; mist seedlings and small plants—mist in the morning and afternoon, plants should be dry by nightfall.

TO REMEMBER that plants need good air circulation and proper light.

Culture of Different Genera:

Cymbidium: Light to partial shade to full sun, protect flowers from sunburn. Temperature 50°–70° optimum. Humidity 40–70%. Potting media; epiphyte-tree fern, fir bark, non-organic mixes or osmunda. New fertilizers have been developed and should be available.

Cattleya, Laelia, Brassavola and Hybrid: Light 2400–3600 foot candles. Temperature 69°–70° optimum. Media for potting: fir bark, tree fern, osmunda, gravel, perlite or charcoal. Fertilizer depends on type of media used to grow your plants.

Phalaenopsis and Hybrid: Light 900–1000 foot candles. Shade to adjust and meet requirements. Temperature 65°–85°, humidity 50–75%; remember the higher the temperature, the more circulation of air is required.

Vanda, Vandopsis, Ascocentrum, Aerides and Hybrid: Light 2000–3600 foot candles. Temperature 60°–70° humidity 49–75%. Potting media: tree fern, fir bark, charcoal, lava rock, or a combination of these. Fertilizer depends on media used. Vandas are voracious feeders and growers when right combination is used.

ROSES

Marianne Truby

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PRACTICE the habit of breaking off the spent blooms of your roses as you enjoy a stroll through your rose garden. You are removing unwanted material and encouraging the plant to produce new growth at a lower part of the stem/cane.

TO CUT blooms at their peak and SHARE with friends and neighbors. Use sharp pruners and cut above a set of leaves to encourage new growth for your next crop of blooms.

TO PROTECT the new basals that were beginning to grow from the bud union during the early bloom. Avoid letting these grow into a large candelabra. Remove side buds, allowing one bloom and then cut back to an eye emanating

from a high five-leaflet. Treat this growth with care. It is your new wood for next year's blossoms.

TO CONTINUE to maintain a well-balanced feeding program and keep ahead of the mites and mildew by washing off your bushes in early morning.

TO MAINTAIN a vigilant watch for RUST on the undersides of your foliage! It is imperative that you maintain a clean area around bushes to control rust as there is no known control. It spreads quickly and removing infected materials and keeping other herbaceous away from your roses will best minimize the threat.

TO WATER your roses according to their needs and your location, usually at least twice a week. A well-defined basin in the soil at the drip line of each bush is ideal and also appropriate to scatter in fertilizer.

TO DISCARD varieties and bushes that fail in your garden and replace with new bushes. Avoid being disappointed with replacements, do thorough research by visiting gardens in your area to observe plants and blooms. Heavy petalled blooms that produce for the warmer parts of the area will seldom open properly for the cooler coastal areas, and the colors achieved at the coast will be pale and washed out in the inner areas.

VEGETABLES

Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor, UC Coop Extension

NOW IS THE TIME

TO PLANT warm-season crops which require warm weather and soil for rapid growth: beans, corn, cucurbits (cucumber, gourd, luffa, melons, and squash), peanuts, peppers, sunflower, tomatoes and tender herbs.

TO PLANT pumpkins in late June for Halloween. Stop watering onions and garlic grown for bulbs when leaves begin to turn yellow. Dig bulbs when tops have fallen over and place in a shady, well-ventilated area to cure.

TO APPLY nitrogen fertilizer to warm-season crops to promote growth. Fertilize when: corn is 6 inches tall and 24 inches tall; cucurbits when plants begin to produce runners; eggplant, peppers and tomatoes when plants begin to bloom and again a month later; beans for a month after planting or when runners start to climb. For every 10 feet of row, apply 1/8–1/2 cup of ammonium sulfate or 1/4–1/2 cup of ammonium nitrate alongside the row a few inches from the plants, then irrigate thoroughly.

TO CHECK plants for pests. Dust tomatoes lightly with sulfur when plants are a foot tall to control russet mites (older leaves die prematurely). Apply sulfur with a dust blower when wind is calm. Wrap paper collars around the stems of tomato transplants when planted to protect them from cutworms.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 85)

THOUGHTS ABOUT USING PINK IN THE GARDEN

BY CHRISTINE S. WOTRUBA

NOTHING SPURS ME OUT of the house and into the garden faster than images or ideas about a beautiful garden. I think, "Could my garden look this interesting?" and "Where would I plant 'this wonder' if I had it to plant?" If I am away from my own garden, traveling to some fabulous English garden as I was a few summers ago, for instance, I immediately pull out my camera. Some action must be taken; if it's not digging, it's noting someone else's digging. Click. The colors, shapes and sizes are on record. Click. The plant combinations are reported. The subject that caught my attention can be brought back to memory in a glance. If I am reading, I underline key words and circle pictures.

Of course, I can never sit still long enough to finish reading a page. I make a leap to action, grabbing my apron that holds clippers and gloves. I am out the door. With feet on the ground and hands in the dirt, my position to ponder, I mull over the ideas just presented. Pulling weeds is always the best time to organize thoughts. Pictures of plants get worked around in my imagination and sometimes a project gets realized.

On this day, out in my garden next to the pool, while edging the beds (which is like sketching the first lines of a drawing), I reviewed the health and welfare of all that was planted in my "pink-to-orange-to-red bed." And decided the color concept did not work. *Dianthus*, carnation-shaped, interplanted with red-orange salvias, pink gaura, and apricot roses aren't pleasing.



Penstemon digitalis *Penstemon newberryi*

I am remembering a picture I took in Bellevue Gardens near Seattle years ago. It was a hillside filled with the colors that I was working with this day. That

section of garden I photographed left a powerful impression. There were daylilies (salmon), geraniums (purple-pink cranesbills), penstemons (red-orange), roses (pink) and Asiatic lilies (yellow). The design was in the shape of an X. From lower left to upper right were salmon to red-orange to pink and from the upper left to lower right were yellow lilies to salmon daylilies to bottom purple-pink geraniums. The mix of warm colors involving pink roses "worked" beautifully well. Its success was in the amount of each color. Varied amounts of these colors were all surrounded by green. That helped. Large-sized coral (salmon) flowers were about one-quarter of the whole, while smaller purple-pink colors floating over their leafy base were one-half of the planting.



Salvia coccinea 'Lady in Red'

Because I have resources in my garden-nursery (Perennial Adventure) that I can plant at any time, I can create new designs with these colors. I was working on putting pink in the garden without apologies for its sometimes "too soft" and "too sweet" qualities. It was just as I recalled it being used in my picture from Bellevue. The combination of red, orange, and pink is essentially the primary hue: red, with its neighbor on the color chart, and the secondary hue: orange along with tints of red that are pink. The trick comes with knowing the amount of color each plant will produce.

From the nursery, I could use *Geranium* 'Patricia', a shocking hot pink with a dark center, or *Geranium* x *magnificum*, which is purple. Both stay low and would give me my base. Then, I might use the *Hemerocallis* 'Little Monica', a soft coral fading to yellow, or

(continued on page 94)

("Now Is the Time . . ." continued from page 83)

VEGETABLES, ANNUALS

from UC Cooperative Extension Publications
**NOW IS ONE OF THE BETTER TIMES IN
FROST-FREE AREAS**

TO PUT IN TRANSPLANTS OF:

eggplant, sweet potato, tomato — African daisy (*Arctotis stoechadifolia*), celosia, centaurea, coreopsis, marigolds, nicotiana, petunia, salpiglossis, salvia, scabiosa, sunflower, and tithonia.

TO PUT IN SEEDS OF: beans, corn, cucumbers, endive, leaf lettuce, melons, okra, onions (green), parsley, parsnips (in May), peppers, radish, squash (winter and summer), turnips — ageratum, amaranthus, balsum, coleus, cosmos, dahlias, four o'clocks, mignonette, morning glories, nasturtiums, portulaca, strawflowers, sweet alyssum, Virginia stock (*Malcomia maritima*), and zinnias. □

ERRATA

In the March-April 2001 issue (92:2:44), for the article "Soil Penetrants" beginning on page 44, the information that it was a reprint from October-November 1970 was omitted. In this same article the word "non-ironic" was used. This was in the original article, and we have no knowledge of what it was intended to be or mean.

In this same issue, on page 42, in "Canchalagua . . .," a reference was made to Lester Rowntree as "he." This writer was born Gertrude Ellen Lester and in the fashion of the time became known as Lester Rowntree when she married.

Thank you to Carol Roller for this information and more that there is not space to print.

CLIMATE MAPS

BY JOYCE GEMMELL

U.S. NATIONAL CLIMATIC divisions are divided into seven zones. This climatic map is used by seed and plant mail-order nurseries for recommending varieties. All seven zones can be found in California. The range of climatic variation is too broad for Southern California.

Sunset magazine zones are closer. They are based on the average range of temperatures in the designated zones. This is also only to be used as a general guide. Variabilities due to hills, canyons, marine influence and several other factors can put your garden in another zone or a combination of two zones.

The San Diego County Planting Guide and zonal

map, obtained from the University of California Cooperative Extension office is based on marine influence, distance from the coast, and elevations. Even here, exposure and slope can influence your unique microclimate and you might not fit a general pattern. □

Joyce Gemmell was in the original San Diego Master Gardeners class in 1983 and has been involved ever since. She has been teaching Foothills Education classes (see page 70) for fifteen years and lecturing and growing plants at Summers Past Farms recently.

INFLUENCES ON PLANT GROWTH IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY

TEMPERATURE—Average annual temperature is in the low 60 degrees on the coastal plain and coastal valleys. Temperatures drop to mid-50s at higher elevations and increases to around 70 degrees in the desert area. In January the mean minimum is in the mid-40s along the coast and mid-30s over the desert but drops to below 30° in the mountains. Daytime temperatures are moderate in January. Maximum temperatures for the month range through the 50s and low 60s over the county. July maximum temperatures average in the 70s along the coast, increasing to 90° in the mountains and more than 100° in the desert. Extreme temperatures have exceeded 100° at all points within the county and 120° in the desert. Minimum readings drop to the 60s along the coast, 50s in mountains, and 60s in deserts.

These are county averages. Local topographical influences should be used in other areas, they can be responsible for marked changes in temperatures within short distances.

RAIN—Average seasonal precipitation along the coast is 10 inches or less. Amounts increase with elevation. Some points in the Laguna mountains receive 35" per year—Palomar receives 45". Annual totals vary over a wide range. One year in 20 will receive less than 5" along the coast, and wet years produce in excess of 20" along the coast, more than 10" in the desert.

SUN—Coastal areas receive some 3,200 hours of sunshine per year or 70% of possible total. Amounts increase inland to 4,000 in the desert or 90%, with about the same in the winter. Coastal sunshine decreases slightly in summer due to early morning fog. El Cajon has more sunshine in the fall than in the spring. □

Taken from *CLIMATES OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY - AGRICULTURAL RELATIONSHIPS* handout from Cooperative Extension.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY COASTAL AND INLAND

BIOCLIMATE REGION

Coastal Region Subdivisions

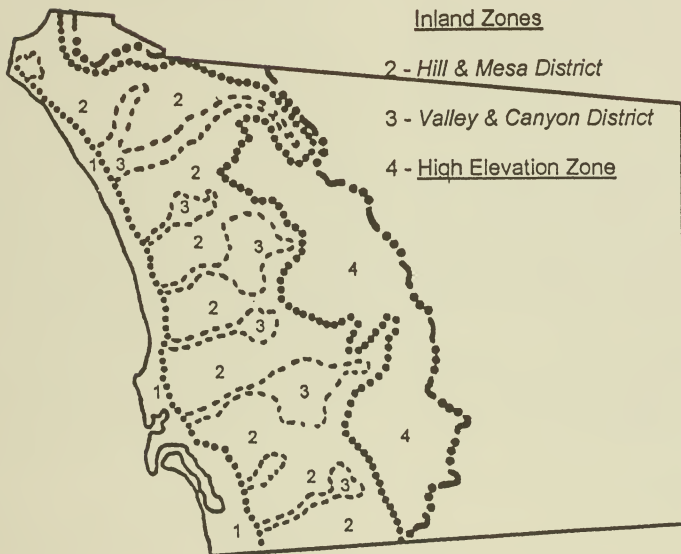
1 - Maritime Zone

Inland Zones

2 - *Hill & Mesa District*

3 - *Valley & Canyon District*

4 - High Elevation Zone



Approximate Area = Sea Level to 2000' Elevation Contour

Bioclimates are complexities of weather that differ from each other in some characteristic of importance to plants and animals.

Subdivisions of California's bioclimates are named for the geographic areas with which they are most closely associated. These names are used to designate the agricultural areas of the state.



RECOMMENDED PLANTING DATES



Coastal Region (1 & 2) Warm Season

Beans, Snap & Pole	Mid March - August
Beans, Lima	Mid April - July
Cantaloupe	April - June
Corn, Sweet	Mid March - July
Cucumbers	Mid March - July
Eggplant (Plants)	April - June
Melons (Casaba, etc.)	April - June
Okra	April - June
Pepper (Plants)	April - July
Squash, Summer	Mid March - August
Squash, Winter	April - June
Sweet Potato Plants	April - June
Tomato Plants	March - July
Watermelons	April - June

Cool Season

Beets	Sept. - May
Broccoli (Plants)	Sept. - Feb.
Broccoli (Seed)	August - Dec.
Cabbage (Plants)	Sept. - February
Cabbage (Seed)	August - Dec.
Carrots	Sept. - April
Cauliflower (Plants)	Sept. - February
Cauliflower (Seed)	August - Dec.
Chard	Sept. - June
Endive	Sept. - May
Kale	Sept. - April
Kohlrabi	Sept. - March
Head Lettuce	Sept. - March
Leaf Lettuce	Sept. - April
Onion (Bulb)	
Short Day	October - Dec.
Medium Day	January - February
Onions (Green)	Sept. - May
Peas (Bush)	Sept. - March
Potatoes (Irish)	February - March
	Mid August - Sept.
Radish	Sept. - May
Spinach	Sept. - April
Turnips	Sept. - May



Inland Region (3 & 4) Warm Season

Beans, Snap & Pole	April - Mid Aug.
Beans, Lima	Mid April - July
Cantaloupe	April - June
Corn, Sweet	April - July
Cucumbers	April - July
Eggplant (Plants)	April - June
Melons, (Casaba, etc.)	April - June
Okra	April - June
Pepper (Plants)	April - June
Squash, Summer	April - July
Squash, Winter	April - June
Sweet Potato Plants	May - June
Tomato Plants	April - June
Watermelons	April - June

Cool Season

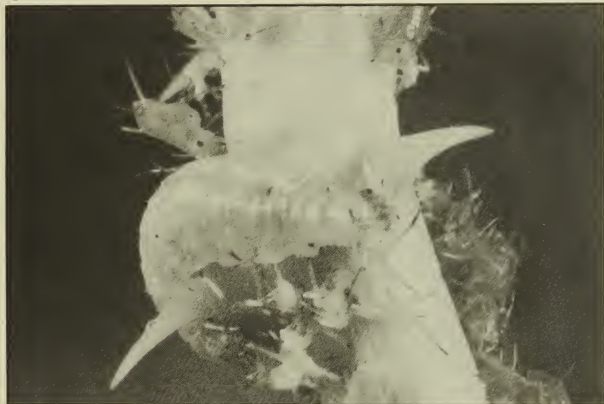
Beets	Sept. - Mid April
Broccoli (Plants)	Sept. - February
Broccoli (Seed)	August - October
Cabbage (Plants)	Sept. - February
Cabbage (Seed)	August - October
Carrots	Sept. - March
Cauliflower (Plants)	Sept. - February
Cauliflower (Seed)	August - October
Chard	Sept. - April
Endive	Sept. - April
Kale	Sept. - April
Kohlrabi	Sept. - March
Head Lettuce	Sept. - February
Leaf Lettuce	Sept. - March
Onion (Bulb)	
Short Day	Mid Oct. - Dec.
Medium Day	January - February
Onions (Green)	Sept. - April
Peas (Bush)	January - March
Potatoes (Irish)	Mid Feb. - April
	Mid August - Sept.
Radish	Sept. - March
Spinach	Sept. - March
Turnips	Mid Sept. - April



FLY WAYS IN THE GARDEN: THE SYRPHID FLIES®

BY DAVID L. FAULKNER and PAT PAWLOWSKI

MOST INSECTS GO ABOUT their life unseen, unnoticed, and usually unappreciated. That should definitely not be the case with flower flies in the family Syrphidae. This highly beneficial family of true flies is often brightly colored and quite conspicuous as it hovers or lands on a flower. Syrphid (which means "gnat") flies, which commonly are known as hover flies, flower flies, sweat flies, and drone flies, are abundant throughout North America, represented by over 850 species. California has recorded nearly 300 distinct species.



Syrphid maggots attacking aphids on a rose bush.

FABULOUS FLIES AND MERITORIOUS MAGGOTS

So what makes this group of flies so important? Many insects are helpful in their immature stage, such as predaceous beetle larvae, or as adults in the case of pollinating bees and nectar-seeking butterflies. With syrphids, both the adult fly and the larva, called a maggot, are beneficial. The flies land on flowers and feed on available pollen and nectar. In doing so, they transfer pollen to other flowers, assisting in fertilization. The larval maggots of many species are active predators on aphids and other soft-bodied insect pests.

Various syrphid species are active

almost the entire year, except the colder months. Eggs are deposited on plants that possess active aphid or soft scale infestations. When the syrphid larvae hatch, they search out potential prey, capturing and feeding on the hosts. In appearance, the maggots are predominately green with a thick body that tapers toward the "head."

DOWN THE HATCH

In attacking aphids, maggots grab the hosts, lift them from the plant surface, pierce the cuticle with their mouth hooks, and drain the aphid's fluids. The dry carcass then is cast aside, and a new prey is stalked. A single syrphid may dispose of ten aphids a day; this can add up due to the large number of syrphids. The mature maggot forms a puparia (pupal case), attaches it to the plant, and an adult emerges in a few weeks.

MASQUERADE PARTY

Many adult flies mimic more aggressive species of insects such as bees and wasps in both coloration and behavior. The genus *Syrphus* is banded in yellow and black like a vespid yellow jacket [a member of the family of social wasps, Vespidae], while other species resemble the color pattern of less common wasps. Drone flies



Syrphid maggot capturing and feeding on an aphid nymph.

are often mistaken for bees because of their similarity in both size and color pattern. Additionally, when trapped, the flies buzz like honey bees, which will make you question your field identification skills while holding one.

While almost all adult syrphids are beneficial, some larvae have secondarily evolved into decomposers and plant feeders. The cactus fly genus *Volucella* has maggots that prefer feeding on the decomposing tissue of various species of *Opuntia* and barrel cactus. Larvae of the drone fly genus *Eristalis*, called a rat-tailed maggot, possess an extended breathing tube to survive on dead material found in water. However, some species, such as the bulb fly genus *Merodon*, have strained their mutual relationship with plants a bit by maggots feeding directly on maturing flower bulbs and onions. But still, a vast number of species specializes in predation of harmful insects, such as the fly genera *Eupeodes*, *Syrphus*, and *Scaeva* on aphids; the lemur (specter) syrphid on mealybugs and other soft scale; and the western syrphid on aphids.

IN A SERIOUS VEIN

Despite the fact that these insects are quite variable in appearance, they are all similar as adults in retaining a pigmented crease or false vein, called a spurious vein, conspicuously located in the middle of the wing. Although the adult fly may resemble species of other insect families, it can be separated by the presence of this structure. Next time, before swatting, take a closer look at the intended victim. You could unintentionally be removing one of the best pest control operators in the yard.

NIPPING APHID PROBLEMS IN THE BUD, SO TO SPEAK

It appears that if you provide the proper nectar-containing flowers for adult flower flies, they will reward you with fertilizing the flowers, fertilizing each other, and finally producing eggs that will hatch into little maggot bodyguards for your precious petunias.

But what kinds of plants will attract them? It is logical that, since adult flower flies are only about 1/2 inch long, they like to sip nectar at small blossoms rather than large ones. So, to kill two birds with one stone (sorry, Audubon members), plant an herb garden. That way, you can use the herb leaves in cooking, and the flower flies will nosh on the nectar-filled tiny flowers. They particularly like the blossoms of dill,

Anethum graveolens), fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*), feverfew (*Chrysanthemum parthenium*) and Roman chamomile (*Chamaemelum nobile*).

In addition to the flowers of herbs, hover flies appreciate the pollen and nectar provided by the flat, open blossoms of the daisy family, such as asters, coreopsis, and dandelion.

Yarrow (*Achillea* spp.) is another favorite slurping source. According to the book *Wildflower Folklore* by Laura C. Martin, the name *Achillea* comes from the Greek hero Achilles, who was said to have carried the plant with him to treat wounded soldiers during the Trojan War. Chemicals in the plant are effective in clotting blood. Yarrow has other uses too: for example, there is no need anymore to write to Dear Abby. Instead, a lovelorn person should place yarrow under a pillow. It will bring prophetic dreams about love matters



Adult syrphid hovering over a plant. Genus *Lasiophthicus*.

to the person sleeping on the pillow. If, however, that person dreams of cabbages, it means the coming of bad luck.

Flattop buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) is a California native plant with tiny white and pink flowers that, when viewed up close—very close—are amazingly pretty.

Fried eggs (*Limnanthes* spp.) are petite annuals that form a six-inch carpet of fragrant five-petaled flowers with yellow centers and white edges.

Sweet alyssum (*Lobularia maritima*) is a pushy little annual that reseeds itself with wild abandon, but it can be forgiven since it adds a honey-like fragrance to the air, and provides nips of nectar to a hungry little beneficial bug.

(continued on page 94)



GROUND COVER: A Thousand Beautiful Plants for Difficult Places

John Cushnie

North Pomfret, Vt., Trafalgar Square, 2000, 160 pages, 178 color photos, 9" x 10", hardcover, \$29.95

John Cushnie, a landscape designer and garden writer, has an innovative approach to ground covers. His description of an ideal ground cover is a "bold dense mass of leaves completely covering the ground . . ." His other requirement is that it is low maintenance. Most designers use low-growing plants as a ground cover, but he encourages the use of larger plants and the pictures show that it can be very attractive. The author is English, but many of the 1,000 plants featured in the directory are available and grow successfully in our area.

The book has good instructions for preparing, planting, and maintenance. I was impressed with some of his designs that looked "lush" but most of the ground was covered with paving. They should have included low water usage—a factor anyone in this area should take into consideration when making a garden.

Reviewed by Barbara S. Jones

DREAM PLANTS FOR THE NATURAL GARDEN

Henk Gerritsen and Piet Oudolf

Portland Timber Press, 2000, 144 pages, 262 color photos, 9" x 10 1/2", hardcover, \$34.95

Plants, bulbs, and shrubs that are hardy and reseed or return on their own are the "dream plants" of this handsome book. The authors, two of Holland's leading garden designers, acknowledge the semantic pitfalls of the term "natural garden," but are content to focus on plants that don't need a lot of fussing over . . . dividing, spraying, artificially fertilizing, etc. . . . but will thrive in reasonable soil conditions, aided by the seasons, the birds and the bees. "Reliability" is a key word here, as is "adaptability."

An informal and admittedly opinionated introduction leads to listings of plants that fit the authors' categories of

"Tough" and "Playful", and then the "Troublesome" ones. The descriptions are detailed as to growing conditions and habits, with photos of most species mentioned.

One of the authors' primary demands for "dream plants" is that they are at least interesting, if not actually attractive, in their dormant or winter stages. This leads to this book's main drawback for local readers as, once again, we have an elegant volume with good information that doesn't apply to our climate zone.

That said, it can be added that this approach to making a garden has general utility, because, except for plant fanatics, most gardeners appreciate plants that provide beauty with a minimum of care. In this respect, the authors provide food for thought and permission for planning a garden that can be enjoyed in the growing as well as in the viewing.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

BOB FLOWERDEW'S COMPLETE FRUIT BOOK

Bob Flowerdew

North Pomfret, Vt., Trafalgar Square, 2001, 256 pages, 400+ color photos, 8" x 10", softcover, \$24.95

Bob Flowerdew is an advocate of organic gardening, a gardening correspondent, and a lecturer on gardening for the BBC. He is from a gardening family, and he does know his fruit. (Nuts are included in the book.) It is organized alphabetically. Not only are there explanations and pictures of each fruit, but varieties are included with information on cultivation, growing under glass, maintenance, propagation, disease and pest control, companion planting, uses, harvesting and storing, and culinary use. Recipes are included—this is a British book but American measurements are given.

This is very easy-to-read book that appears to include almost every edible fruit known. I found it a fascinating book to browse.

Reviewed by Barbara S. Jones

FROM THE GROUND UP—THE STORY OF A FIRST GARDEN

Amy Stewart

Chapel Hill, Algonquin Books, 2001, 272 pages, 5" x 7", hardcover, \$18.95

Midwest newlyweds move to California with dreams of a luxuriant garden that will pretty much grow by itself. That is the premise for this pleasurable little book that describes the ups and downs (usually in the reverse order) of learning garden basics while luxuriating in the seaside atmosphere of Santa Cruz. Moving into a small rental bungalow across the street from the local amusement park, the author shares her learning processes, from the why

and how of composting to growing plants from neighbors' gardens and the satisfaction of manual labor. Each short chapter is followed by a page or two of good information gleaned the hard way: dealing with weeds, accommodating cats, the folly of planting annuals and vegetables from pony packs, and making worm tea.

The book is divided into two sections, *Breaking Ground*, which includes most of the above topics, and *A Growing Season*, which begins with the pluses and minuses of having summer tourists literally in her front yard. Annoyed at first by traffic, noise and trash, the author gradually realized how lucky she was to live in a place that the visitors seemed to regard as magical, a perspective that included the glory of her own garden. Much of the advice at the back of these latter chapters has to do with food: how to grow it and recipes for preparing it.

All is told in an informal friendly style that reads so easily, it's like a visit with a good friend. At the end, when her twenty-year-old cat, which she has had since the third grade, is buried in the garden, and she and her husband need to move on to a home of their own, the reader feels every pang that such changes bring. Still, the main response is appreciation for adventures and advice so gracefully shared.

Reviewed by Marge Howard-Jones

AGAVES, YUCCAS, AND RELATED PLANTS: A Gardener's Guide

Mary Irish and Gary Irish

Portland, Timber Press, 2000, 384 pages, 100 color photos, 6" x 9", 18 line drawings, hardcover, \$34.95

This is very usable guide to *Agaves*, *Yuccas*, and other related plants for the average gardener or plant enthusiast. This book uses the classification of Dahlgren, Clifford and Yeo (1985) restricting Agavaceae to genera found in the Americas. A general description is provided for each genus before the detailed descriptions of the genus-species. Sixty-four *Agaves* are described (forty-six have color photos) giving size, description of leaves and bloom, distribution, propagation, cultural requirements and uses. Especially helpful is the information as to "similar or related species" listing either what makes it unique or what helps to distinguish it from another species. Twenty-three *Yuccas* are covered in the same detail.

In addition to *Agaves* and *Yuccas*, the related plants include *Beschorneria*(1), *Furcraea*(4), *Hesperaloe*(4), *Manfreda*(2), *Polianthes*(1), and *Prochnyanthes* (not included in this book). Another four of these related plants are part of the Nolinaceae family: *Beaucarnea*(5), *Calibanus*(1), *Dasyllirion*(5), and *Nolina*(8).

There are two good keys based on vegetative

characteristics, one for agaves and the second for yuccas.

Reviewed by R. Cox

THE GARDEN LOVER'S GUIDE TO THE WEST

Kathleen McCormick

New York, Princeton Architectural Press, 2001, 176 pages, 150 color photos, 6" x 10", softcover, \$21.95

This is the final (fourth) in a series of guides to over 600 public and semi-public gardens across the United States. Included in this volume are 114 gardens from thirteen states. They include Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

Noting that gardens of the western states are often situated in spectacular natural settings with radically different climates, soils, and elevation they reflect the dramatically diverse backgrounds of their creators.

No one can deny the gardens their exceptional beauty, and must salute their creators, many of whom have devoted life-long labors of love to express a vision of beauty. Each region is introduced with a map of the states along with areas pinpointed to show the location of the gardens being highlighted in detail. The facts about each garden are well displayed, such as hours open, admission, and address to receive further information. Many of us who consider ourselves knowledgeable of what is available in the West will I am sure find a surprising number of gardens described and listed that we have not visited.

San Diego's Balboa Park is covered in detail, including its establishment in 1868, thanks to Kate Sessions and her efforts in planting special collections. The City of San Diego's history of years of progress to create and maintain this 1,200 acre park with its fifteen museums, San Diego Zoo, and many performing arts groups is also included.

Quail Botanical Gardens has a somewhat smaller write-up. Once again the greater detail is given to the historical background.

The pictures throughout are in color and contribute an additional bonus to the excellent format carried throughout the series.

Reviewed by Marianne Truby

THE COLOR ENCYCLOPEDIA OF DAYLILIES

Ted L. Petit and John P. Peat

Portland, Timber Press, 2000, 296 pages, 1300 color photos, 8½" x 11", hardcover, \$49.95

Of interest to Daylily enthusiasts, this book has photos of more than 1,200 cultivars. Chapters include: singles, doubles, eyed and patterned, spiders, polytepal, small, and miniatures.



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Flower fly resting on a leaf. Genus *Syrphus*

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Of course, you don't have to worry about providing food for flower fly maggots (should we call them flybabies?). There will always be plenty of yummy aphids around, especially on the plants you really care about. In fact, the following statement should be one of Murphy's Laws: The more you admire and pamper a specific plant, the more aphids it will attract.

But thanks to those fantastic flower flybabies, your plants will be relatively aphidless.

FLIES AND PHILOSOPHY

Nature can always teach us something: In this case, to beware of stereotypical thinking. To be sure, some flies can be quite annoying to humans; they bite us, they buzz us, they do the macarena across our macaroni salad. But they all have their place in the world.

And flower flies certainly have their place in our gardens. □

Text copyright by Pat Pawlowski, who is a writer/lecturer and the wildlife garden designer for Animated Gardens.

David K. Faulkner is Collections Manager at San Diego Natural History Museum.

*Photographs on pages 88 and 94 by Robert Parks.
Photograph on page 89 by Phil Nordin.*

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["Thoughts about using Pink . . ." continued from page 84]

rebloomer *Hemerocallis* 'Final Touch', with its large pinky lavender flowers. *Spiraea* 'Goldflame' could be used for the bronze and yellow leaves with magenta flowers that are all my scheme of colors in one plant. *Rosa chinensis* 'Mutabilis' is the backdrop. It too has all the colors in one plant; orange buds, creamy yellow young blooms aging to deeper and deeper pink. Then, pink *Dianthus* will blend with salmon *Watsonias* and orange *Salvias*. I think that sounds dramatic and as powerful as the picture.

This poolside flower border is a sunny location. If these colors were to be used in a semi-shaded garden border, I can think of a few more plant combinations. For example, *Euphorbia* 'Summer Sunset' has variegated pink and cream foliage with poinsettia-like heads (in fall) and could grow in semi-shade with a fancy-leaf *Pelargonium* 'Friary Woods'. Shade is good for its large chartreuse leaves. It has pink flowers. Combine these with *Berberis* 'Ruby Glow' because of its elegant reddish-pink foliage. Add *Salvia coccinea*, red, that seems to bloom anywhere in the garden, sun or shade. The scheme is completed by growing the coral-orange flowered *Justicia leonardii* in the background. Even in shaded locations there is power in the garden color scheme of red, orange, and pink. □

Christine S. Wotruba is the owner of Perennial Adventure, a home garden nursery at 10548 Anaheim Drive, La Mesa, California 91941. Tel. 619-660-9631.

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ROLAND HOYT BOOK REPRINT

ORNAMENTAL PLANTS FOR SUBTROPICAL REGIONS by Roland Hoyt has been reprinted by his sons. The book has been available only at rare book stores until now. (Going Rate \$65.00) Bill and Mike have donated the books to San Diego Floral Association. The books will sell for \$14.50 (tax included). \$10 of each book sale will be added to the scholarship fund established in the name of Ethel and Roland Hoyt. The books are available at the San Diego Floral office in Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. They can be mailed.

If you are a newcomer to San Diego you probably do not know about Roland Hoyt. He was one of our earliest landscape architects and is responsible for the landscaping of Mission Bay, the Community Concourse, and many noteworthy gardens around the city. At the time this book was written, there was no guide for Southern California that listed plants by their needs and requirements. It is still the most reliable guide available. The later half of the book is a written description and sketch of each plant in alphabetical order. In recent years many scientific names have been changed but there is an updated nomenclature list at the end of the book. The original 1940 book was published as a pocketbook, but this is enlarged—it is a handsome hardback book 7" x 10½". The price of the book (tax included) is \$14.50. Handling and postage is an additional \$3.00.

KATE SESSIONS BOOK

The complete collection of writings by Kate Sessions in *California Garden* magazine from 1909 until 1939 is now available at the San Diego Floral Association office in Room 105, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. The book contains a plant index and many changes in plant names, particularly scientific, have been noted.

Often known as the "Mother of Balboa Park," for over fifty years she devoted her life to helping people grow beautiful plants in San Diego. She tells how, in this book that is for sale in the San Diego Floral Office for \$18.00 (tax included) — \$15.00 (tax included, for members). If you wish a copy mailed to you, use the coupon below and enclose \$3.00 for handling and mailing.

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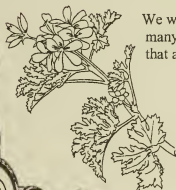
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